

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: Limited

7 March 2005

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-ninth session

28 February-11 March 2005

Agenda item 3

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled
"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century"**

**Austria,* Belgium, Cyprus,* Czech Republic,* Denmark,* Finland,* France,*
Germany, Greece,* Hungary, Ireland,* Italy,* Latvia,* Lithuania,*
Luxembourg,* Malta,* Netherlands, Poland,* Portugal,* Slovakia,* Slovenia,*
Spain,* Sweden* and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:
draft resolution**

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various instruments in this field,

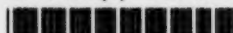
Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to several international human rights instruments,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, on children and armed conflict,

Recalling also that the new Constitution states that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and guarantees the rights of women to serve in the National Assembly,

Recognizing that, in spite of recent improvements, women in Afghanistan continue to face serious violations of their rights in many parts of the country, in particular in rural areas,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.



Strongly emphasizing that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse, for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes:*

(a) The continuing commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, the restoration of the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, the education of girls as well as boys and the opportunity for women to work outside the home;

(b) The provisions of the new Constitution that state that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and that at least two women are to be elected to the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) from each province, as a national average, and which provide for half of the President's nominees to the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) to be women;

(c) The ongoing security sector reform processes being undertaken by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the international community, including the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and the recruitment of a new cadre of women police;

(d) The peaceful and successful presidential election that took place on 9 October 2004 and the level of participation by women voters who cast 40 per cent of the total number of votes;

(e) The candidacy of Afghan women in both the Presidential and Vice-Presidential ballots, the appointment of three women to cabinet positions and the appointment of the first woman provincial governor on 2 March 2005;

(f) The recent publication of a report on transitional justice, entitled "A Call for Justice", by the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;¹

3. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan:

(a) To fully implement the Constitution and all international treaties to which Afghanistan is a state party, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;²

(b) To ensure that legislative, administrative and other measures support the full enjoyment by women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by mainstreaming gender issues into policies and programmes at all levels, and to organize sustained awareness-raising campaigns on the equality of women and men;

(c) To enable the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

¹ E/CN.6/2005/5.

² General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

(d) To ensure that women are able to register, run for office, campaign and vote in the upcoming national assembly elections scheduled for 2005;

(e) To strengthen women's economic empowerment and access to income-generating activities, credits, means of production, technology and resources, inter alia, by guaranteeing women's and girls' property and inheritance rights;

(f) To ensure the effective, full and equal access of women and girls to health care and education;

(g) To ensure that the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the permanent Afghan judicial institutions have adequate human and financial resources to fulfil their mandates and address gender perspectives in line with international standards;

(h) To continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, in accordance with international standards, inter alia, by ensuring the impartiality of the justice system and that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular emphasis on access to justice and redress mechanisms for women;

(i) To continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of its police, army, prosecutors and judiciary and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

(j) To raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate violence, including domestic and sexual violence, against women, with the aim of changing the attitudes that allow such crimes to take place and to develop support services for victims of violence against women and girls;

(k) To raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate enforced marriages in accordance with article 16 (b) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(l) To support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice, in accordance with international standards, in order to combat impunity;

4. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations and donors:

(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and to ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) To ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(c) To support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights and encourage the involvement of women therein;

(d) To ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of human rights;

(e) To integrate efforts to improve the health status of women within all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increasing access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

(f) To continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows and returning refugee and displaced women and girls as well as those living in rural areas;

(g) To continue to provide financial and technical support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and all line ministries, in order to integrate gender perspectives into their programmes and budgets;

(h) To provide sufficient financial and technical support to the 2005 national assembly elections process in order to facilitate the full participation of women as voters and candidates;

(i) To support the development of a long-term strategy to strengthen the judicial system according to international standards;

(j) To support measures to hold accountable those responsible for gross violations of women's human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to integrate a gender perspective when formulating and implementing programmes and policies in relation to Afghanistan;

6. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan at its sixty-first session and to fully include the situation of women and girls in any consideration of the human rights situation in Afghanistan;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
8 March 2005

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-ninth session

28 February-11 March 2005

Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marine Davtyan (Armenia)

Chapter ____ . Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 February to 11 March 2005. The Commission held ____ meetings (1st to ____).
2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea), who also made a statement.
3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the acting President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission.
4. The Commission viewed a short video-presentation, entitled "Agents of Change", prepared by the Department of Public Information.
5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the First Lady of Mexico, the Minister of Social Affairs and General Equality of Denmark, the Minister of Water and Irrigation of Kenya and the Vice-Chairperson of the National Committee on Women and Children under the State Council and Vice-President of the All-China Women's Federation, in their capacity as dignitaries representing the host countries of the four United Nations World Conferences on Women.



B. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Officers of the Commission

7. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, in which the Council recommended that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve for a term of office of two years, the following officers elected at the forty-eighth session continued to serve during the forty-ninth session:

Chairperson:

Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Tebatso Baleseng (Botswana)

Beatrice Maillé (Canada)

Marine Davtyan* (Armenia) (who also served as Rapporteur)

8. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission elected Romy Tincopa (Peru) to serve as Vice-Chairperson for the forty-ninth session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

9. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2005/1 and Corr.1 and 2. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
 - (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;
 - (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
 - (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives;

* Elected at the forty-eighth session to serve for the forty-ninth session only.

- (i) Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";
 - (ii) Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.
- 4. Communications concerning the status of women.
 - 5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
 - 6. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission.
 - 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women

10. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Xiao Mei Li (China)
Farah Adjalova (Azerbaijan)
Connie Taracena (Guatemala)
Richard Wood (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Adekunbi Abibat Sonaike (Nigeria)

11. The working group held ___ meetings.
- _____



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
10 March 2005

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-ninth session

28 February-11 March 2005

Agenda item 6

Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

Draft provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

Documentation

Proposals for a multi-year programme of work on the Commission on the Status of Women, 2007-2011

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

Report on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

- (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;



Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system

- (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
- (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
 - (i) Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work
 - (ii) Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels

Documentation

Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work (thematic issue before the Commission)

Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels (thematic issue before the Commission)

Note by the Bureau of the Commission: discussion guide on the high-level round table of the Commission

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat as an input to the high-level segment of the 2006 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.